

Major General Ronald H. Markarian's dedicated service to his community, the State of California and the United States Air Force are an example of a life devoted to duty, honor and country. He has been an important voice for veterans and has provided profound insight and guidance on important veteran issues. General Markarian's service and expertise has been very influential in providing sound advice to the Governor and Legislature of California.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to Major General Ronald H. Markarian for his service to the California Veterans Board and the California Department of Veterans Affairs. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing General Markarian many more years of success.

A TRIBUTE TO LARRY DOBY

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a real American hero. In 1947, Larry Doby became the first black man to play in the American League, and the second African-American to cross the color barrier in professional baseball. For young people today, it's probably hard to imagine a time when the color of your skin could keep you from fulfilling your dream of playing professional baseball. But for Larry Doby, pursuing that dream in Jim Crow America meant breaking down age-old barriers and changing the face of baseball.

A native of Paterson, New Jersey, Larry Doby began his baseball career in 1942 with the Negro American League's Newark Eagles. When World War II broke out, Doby joined the armed forces and fought for this country. He returned in 1946 to lead the Newark Eagles to the Negro World Championship. In 1947, one year later, he became the second African-American to cross the color barrier in professional baseball when he signed with the Cleveland Indians.

Larry Doby's first lonely steps into the Cleveland Indian locker room required a courage and bravery beyond what most of us will encounter in a lifetime. Doby stood fast and determined amidst the cold and quiet stares, the spitting fans and the bigoted ball players who spiked him with their cleats. It was the "Strength from God" that helped him stand tall and show the world what a great baseball talent he really was.

Eventually, the world could no longer ignore the rare athleticism and strength of character that Doby possessed. In 1948, fans and ball players alike celebrated Doby's World Series-clinching home run with an outpouring of genuine affection, praise, and respect. "It had to be done from the inside," Doby remembered. "It had to be done without thinking about the color of a person's skin."

Over the course of his career, Larry Doby hit 253 home runs and 969 RBI's, amassing a career batting average of .283. He was a seven-time All-Star outfielder, who was also the first nonwhite person to play in a World Series, hit a home run in a World Series, and win a league home run title. For this and for his heroism, Larry Doby won his place in the Professional Baseball Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, Larry Doby's accomplishments are an inspiration to us all. He gave us faith

that the human spirit can triumph over life's most imposing obstacles. His legacy will forever live in the faces of the young boys and girls who dream of becoming a professional athlete or of achieving, in some other way, their own special place in history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on July 20, 1998, I requested and was granted a leave of absence from the House of Representatives due to personal illness. Consequently, I missed the roll call vote on H. Con. Res. 301, which reaffirms our longstanding commitment to Taiwan. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Con. Res. 301.

Taiwan has been one of our oldest and closest friends in Asia since 1949. The people of Taiwan live in a free, democratic society.

I was extremely disappointed by President Clinton's recent endorsement of mainland China's views on Taiwan. Before the President left for China, the House unanimously passed H. Con. 270, urging him to seek a public renunciation by the People's Republic of China of any use of force, or threat of use of force, against Taiwan.

In light of the President's actions, Congress must send a strong message to the People's Republic of China and the world that we intend to stand by our friends and allies. The United States must dispel any notion on the part of China's leaders that we will tolerate the use of force in determining the future of Taiwan. The people of Taiwan must be responsible for determining their own future in a peaceful and democratic fashion.

H. Con. Res. 301 reaffirms the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act and reaffirms our commitment to the people of Taiwan.

FEDERAL RETIREMENT COVERAGE CORRECTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3249, the "Federal Retirement Coverage Corrections Act". H.R. 3249 seeks to correct errors in the retirement plan classifications of thousands of Federal workers. Without H.R. 3249, these unfortunately misclassified Federal employees may lose their retirement benefits through no fault of their own. I support prompt passage of H.R. 3249.

Since H.R. 3249 involves issues related to the retirement benefits of Federal employees, it was initially considered by my colleagues on the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. That Committee approved the bill with strong bipartisan support.

The Committee on Ways and Means, considered H.R. 3249 because it raised issues relating to taxation and social security. The Ways and Means Committee also approved H.R. 3249 with bipartisan support on March 5,

1998, and filed its report today (H. Rept. 105-625, Part 2).

The revenue provisions approved by the Ways and Means Committee, would provide that: (1) retirement plans would not lose their "qualified" Federal tax status by making the corrections required by H.R. 3249, (2) participants whose retirement accounts were adjusted in accordance with H.R. 3249 would not incur Federal income tax liability, and (3) amounts transferred in accordance with H.R. 3249 would not be subject to employment taxes.

The Social Security provisions approved by the Committee would provide that: (1) retroactive earnings would be credited and the Social Security Trust Funds would be made whole in situations where individuals change to one of the retirement systems that provides Social Security coverage, (2) necessary conforming changes would be made to the coverage provisions of the Social Security Act, and (3) the Commissioner of Social Security would have the authority to receive necessary information from agencies, notify the Secretary of the Treasury to transfer taxes paid as a result of elections under H.R. 3249 to the Social Security Trust Funds, and to correct earnings records.

To allow the misclassified Federal employees to receive their much deserved retirement benefits, I support the prompt approval of H.R. 3249.

TRIBUTE TO JIM AND KRISTIE DOCHEFF

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two of my constituents, Jim and Kristie Docheff, for their environmental stewardship. Jim and Kristie, along with their children, Chisum, Joshua and Meghann own and operate the Diamond D Dairy in Weld County, Colorado. The Docheffs turn their cattle's manure into valuable, organic compost which they sell to gardeners and vegetable growers across Colorado. They discovered this innovative waste management strategy quite by accident when they were unable to have their manure hauled away for fertilizer as they would normally do. Piled up during a wet spring, ammonia and bacteria diligently heated and transformed the accumulated manure. The heat sterilizes pathogens and kills plant seeds to eventually produce a fine, dry compost with the consistency and smell of rich earth.

Rather than paying thousands of dollars annually to have farmers remove the waste to spread on their fields, the Docheffs now spread the waste into long windows, which they periodically turn with a newly purchased tractor and compost turner. Depending upon the season, the process takes between six weeks and four months.

During recent months controversy has surrounded animal feeding operations. The EPA has stringent regulatory guidelines for certain concentrated animal feeding operations, Or (CAFOs). Environmental groups are leading the charge for more federal involvement and tougher regulations on agriculture run-off. But,